

REMARKS

Claims 18-46 are pending prior to entering this amendment. The examiner objects to claim 28 because of the following informalities. Applicant amends claim 28. Claims 18-46 remain after entering this amendment. Applicant adds no new matter and requests reconsideration.

Claim Objections

The examiner objects to claim 28 because of the following informalities. Applicant amends claim 28, which obviates the examiner's objection.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance


The examiner's statements of reasons for allowance are hereby acknowledged by the applicant. The applicant agrees that the claimed subject matter is patentably distinct from the documents cited by the examiner. However, the applicant takes no position regarding the reasons for allowance presented by the examiner other than the positions that the applicant has previously taken during prosecution of the patent application. Therefore, the examiner's reasons for allowance should not be attributed to the applicant or any assignee as an indication of the basis for the applicant's belief that the claims are patentably distinct. Furthermore, it is respectfully asserted that there may also be additional reasons for patentability of the claimed subject matter not explicitly stated in this record. While in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e), a failure by the applicant to disagree with the examiner, or file more detailed comments, does not give rise to any implication that the applicant agrees with or acquiesces in the reasoning provided by the examiner. The applicant is thus making it expressly clear that no such agreement or acquiescence is present here.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all claims of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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